the number of days during which the fan in the Council Library was out of order?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—19 days.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—How do you account for this long delay for such a petty thing?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—19 days cannot be said to be long delay. The fans in the Hall were all right. It is only the library fan that was not working for a few days. The Member, if he had requested, would have been allowed to use one of the fans of the Hall for the time being.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Was it not out of order during the last meeting?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Yes, for some time on the last day.

Steps to open a Public School at Mattancheri.

392. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what steps have been taken to give the Public of Mattancheri the privilege of having a Public School in Mattancheri;

(b) and to what success?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) and (b) There are public schools at Mattancheri. If the Member means a High School, the question is engaging the attention of Government.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—May I know whether the Government is aware that last year Government promised to give a public school to Mattancheri?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Year before last it was said that this will be attended to very quickly. We requested the Diwan for an allotment of one lakh and only an allotment of Rs. 38,000 has been sanctioned. This one building costs about Rs. 80,000. Therefore I am making a further proposal to the Government. It was not possible to include it in the last year's sanctioned works.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Did not the Government say in last year's reply that they are having some correspondence with the T. D. School authorities?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Yes. They said that they had no objection to shift and the Devaswam authorities said that they will acquire the land again which was once purchased for the purpose of the school.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Have not the Devaswam agreed to give a site for the school?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—They said that they were prepared to buy back the land and offer it to the department. But the difficulty is with regard to the money for the construction of the building.

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Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—May I know whether the Government have prepared any estimates to know how much will be required?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—There was no chance to prepare estimates because the work was not sanctioned.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Have the Government any idea to work it and find out the figure?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I do not understand the question. But I presume, what the Hon'ble Member wants to know is whether the Government has prepared any estimates. It was not the occasion for preparing an estimate. The building was not sanctioned. I suggested the figure 80,000 roughly on the basis of the cost of the girls' school here. There was no necessity in the current year to prepare an estimate.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Has the Government no desire to prepare it?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—No such conclusion follows. We are very anxious to provide you with a school. But out of Rs. 38,000 sanctioned, we cannot spend such a large sum.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Will Rs. 80,000 be required in one year?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—We will have to spend at least 40 to 50 thousand rupees this year.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Do the Government construct all the buildings with a lump sum?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—In the case of the Ernakulam College we have had to provide 4 lakhs in one year and another 4 lakhs this year.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is it the Government's idea that on account of this, this High School is to suffer?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—There is no question of suffering. Many other educational works are delayed on account of this college.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is not the Government aware that the present T. D. School is not fit for the students and for the classes to be held?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—From a sanitary point of view it would appear so. That was the urge for transferring the school from its present site to another site.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Will the Government take a long time to meet this urgent necessity?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I should say that it would be one of the works on which Government would be willing to spend money. It will be one of the very first items to which Government will turn.

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Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Whether this will be taken up and provided for in next year s budget ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I am unable to forecaste at this stage what the commitments of the Government will be. We have to provide funds for the college the work of which has to be expedited. What funds will be left over for distribution over public schools I cannot say.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—When do the Heads of Departments prepare their estimates and submit their items to the Governmentfor sanction ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—They make the recommendations by the middle of Meenam.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Has the Government any idea to provide Mattancheri with a school ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It has already been placed before the Government. In the original work this has also been included.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—How many years will it take to realise the scheme?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It depends upon the nature of the contractor, the rapidity with which the Devaswam hands over the site and other factors.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Is the Government at the mercy of the nature of the contractors ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—We are at the mercy of so many things.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—If the Devaswam is not willing to provide a site for the Government, have the Government any idea to acquire a site and provide a school ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—That contingency does not arise. They have promised to provide us with a site.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—How they will be able to make the figures for the acquisition of the land and the building ?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The land is going to be bought back and handed over to the Government by the Devaswam.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Suppose the Devaswam refuses, whether the Government will have to acquire or purchase the land?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—That contingency has not arisen because they have promised.

Consideration of measures to relieve indebted peasantry.

393. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government be pleased to state when they will be considering in their heads of departments' meeting the problem of helping our indebted peasantry, promised by them as long ago as the last budget session, and re-iterated in our last meeting ?

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